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JULY 1964

CIA/C

Honorable John O. Pastore,
Chairman, Joint Committee
on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of 27 May 1964 concerning the most recent newspaper story regarding Colonel Stig Wennerstrom. Your letter refers to the previous inquiry of 14 April 1964 from the Executive Director of the Joint Committee staff and this Agency's response. Agency representatives had previously briefed members of the Joint Committee staff in detail on information on the Wennerstrom case in our possession at that time.

In response to Mr. Conway's letter, we advised that subsequent to the July 1963 meeting with the Joint Committee staff, we had not received any information which would indicate that Colonel Wennerstrom had access to Restricted Data. We also referred to the fact that, as indicated in the staff briefing, our investigation disclosed no evidence that Colonel Wennerstrom had had direct or indirect access to such information, although access on which no evidence has appeared is, of course, a possibility.

Notwithstanding THE NEW YORK TIMES article of 27 May of this year, which indicates that Colonel Wennerstrom reportedly told interrogators he sold U.S. nuclear weapons secrets to the Soviet Union, there is no basis for any change in the information given the Joint Committee staff in July or in our response to Mr. Conway's inquiry.

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The "report" referred to in the article is but a censored transcript of 900 pages of the interrogation of Colonel Wennerstrom containing assertions and statements made by Colonel Wennerstrom to his interrogators. The Swedish J-2, who is also Chairman of the Military Committee investigating the case, has commented that Colonel Wennerstrom has told several camouflage stories. He said Colonel Wennerstrom has retreated successively from one position to another during the course of investigation. He also added that close examination of the narrative and the many obvious untruths so sprinkled through it, indicated that even his last defense position is false from the ground up.

I trust that this information will be helpful in bringing the Joint Committee up-to-date on the Wennerstrom case.

Sincerely,

John A. McCone
Director

CONCUR:

Richard Holmes

JUN 19 1964

Deputy Director (Plans)

Date

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OGC/LC/GLC:jmd (5 June 64)